

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 EB-07

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R 191503Z MAY 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2164

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RH, WA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AGAINST APARTHEID ABOUT HAVANA INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

NIGERIAN PERM REP HARRIMAN, CHAIRMAN OF UN SPECIAL
COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID, READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT
PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 18 CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR TO
BE HELD IN HAVANA MAY 24-28:

QUOTE I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU FOR A
BRIEFING ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WHICH THE SPECIAL
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COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID IS ORGANIZING IN HAVANA FROM

24 TO 28 MAY.

PARTICULARS ON THE SEMINAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED TO YOU IN A PRESS RELEASE AND I WILL NOT GO INTO THEM IN DETAIL. I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEMINAR, AS WE SEE IT IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS OUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE SEMINAR, AND THEN TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY THAT THOUGH THIS IS CALLED A SEMINAR, APPARENTLY FOR SOME TECHNICAL REASON, IT WILL BE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BRINGING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TRADE UNIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING OBSERVERS FROM DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN CUBA, WILL BE ABOUT 200. THE SEMINAR IS NOT MEANT TO DENOUNCE APARTHEID - THE TIME IS LONG PAST FOR THAT - BUT TO ANALYZE THE SITUATION AND FORMULATE A PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION, AT THE GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC LEVELS, TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THE PRESENT STAGE OF THEIR STRUGGLE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE CONFERENCE ORGANIZED UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF APARTHEID, RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR ANY "DIALOGUE" OR "DETENTE" WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME. THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE EXCEPT STRUGGLE BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS, INCLUDING ARMED STRUGGLE, TO OVERTHROW THE REGIME AND SECURE FREEDOM. THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH ARMED CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA TODAY, BUT SUCH A CONFLICT SEEMS INEVITABLE UNLESS THE REGIME IS PERSUADED, OR FORCED, TO CHANGE ITS POLICY.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, AS YOU KNOW, HAS CONSTANTLY CALLED FOR DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME AS A MEANS TO A SOLUTION.

BUT, ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE INFORMATION, SOUTH AFRICA
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CONTINUES TO RECEIVE MILITARY SUPPLIES AND MILITARY CO-OPERATION FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES. IT IS INCREASING ITS MILITARY BUDGET BY 40 PER CENT THIS YEAR AND HOPES TO GET MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD. THE MILITARIZATION OF SOUTH AFRICA CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE NAVAL EXPANSION BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME POSES A THREAT TO THE PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS WELL.

THE SEMINAR, I AM SURE, WILL PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW FACING A SERIOUS CRISIS. THERE HAS BEEN A DROP IN THE GOLD PRICE AND THE AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA HAS UNNERVED SOME FOREIGN INVESTORS. THE INCREASE IN THE MILITARY BUDGET HAS REQUIRED AN INCREASE IN TAXES. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS ESTIMATES, THERE WILL BE A LOWERING OF PER CAPITA INCOME IN SOUTH AFRICA THIS YEAR.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME DESPERATELY NEEDS LARGE-SCALE LOANS AND INVESTMENT FROM ABROAD.

AFTER THE SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE, WHEN THERE WAS A MASSIVE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA, THE RACIST REGIME WAS BAILED OUT BY WESTERN INVESTORS. WE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPETITION OF SUCH COLLABORATION NOW.

THE SEMINAR WILL CONSIDER CONCERTED ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PREVENT ECONOMIC COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA BY GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS BANKS AND TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES.

THE VORSTER REGIME HAS BEEN TRYING DESPERATELY, IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, TO BREAK OUT OF ITS ISOLATION BY DIPLOMATIC MANOEUVRES AND PROPAGANDA. IT HAS BEEN TRYING TO BUILD UP THE BOGEY OF COMMUNISM IN ORDER TO ATTRACT THE SYMPATHIES OF SOME PEOPLE IN THE WESTERN WORLD. IT HAS BEEN TALKING OF "DETENTE" TO ENTICE SOME AFRICAN STATES. IT HAS REINFORCED ITS LINKS WITH ISRAEL, APPARENTLY IN THE HOPE OF DEVELOPING A NEW AXIS IN PLACE OF THE "UNHOLY ALLIANCE" OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

A FEW DAYS AGO, AT THE END OF APRIL, THE SOUTH AFRICAN
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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED A REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON ITS WORK IN 1975. IT BOASTED THAT THERE WAS BETTER PUBLICITY FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN 1975 THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE 1948 WHEN THE APARTHEID REGIME CAME TO POWER.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2164

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

I WOULD NOT BLAME THE CORRESPONDENTS HERE FOR THIS. WE
KNOW THAT SOME POWERFUL FRIENDS OF SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN
SINGING THE THEME SONG OF THE RACISTS.

I AM SATISFIED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PROPAGANDA HAS SUFFERED
A SEVERE REVERSE AFTER ITS AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA. SOUTH AFRICA
HAS NOT ONLY COMMITTED NAKED AGGRESSION AGAINST A NEIGHBOURING
TERRITORY, BUT RESORTED TO LIES WHICH WERE SOON EXPOSED. ITS
GAMBLE MISFIRED IN THE FACE OF HEROIC RESISTANCE BY THE
ANGOLAN PEOPLE, SUPPORTED BY THEIR FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND ABROAD.

BUT THE FACT THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ABLE TO CONFUSE AND
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MISLEAD MANY PEOPLE LAST YEAR IS A WARNING TO US, AND A CHALLENGE
THAT WE SHOULD INTENSIFY OUR EFFORTS TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THE
TRUTH ABOUT THE APARTHEID REGIME.

FINALLY, THE SEMINAR WILL DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF

SOLIDARITY AND ASSISTANCE. IT WILL DISCUSS MEANS TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THIS CRUCIAL PHASE OF THEIR STRUGGLE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARED AT THE LAST SESSION THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THEIR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE SEMINAR WILL NEED TO TRANSLATE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION INTO CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR ACTION.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS ASSISTANCE TO THE FRONT-LINE STATES WHICH ARE SUBJECTED TO ECONOMIC PRESSURES OR MILITARY THREATS BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DECLARE THAT ANY ATTACK ON THESE STATES IS AN ATTACK ON THE UNITED NATIONS.

I HAVE TRIED TO GIVE YOU AN INDICATION OF THE MAIN ISSUES BEFORE THE SEMINAR, AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. UNQUOTE
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